

Hosea 8:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, though they have hired among the nations, now will I gather them, and they shall sorrow a little for the burden of the king of princes.

Analysis

Scattered and burdened: 'Yea, though they have hired among the nations, now will I gather them, and they shall sorrow a little for the burden of the king of princes.' Israel 'hired' (תַּנְעַ, tanu—gave gifts/tribute) among nations (buying alliances), yet God will 'gather' (קָבַת, qabbets) them—but for judgment not blessing. They'll 'sorrow a little' (יָחֶלְוּ, yachelu me'at) for burden (מִשְׁאָ, massa) of מלך שָׁרִים (melekh sarim, king of princes—likely Assyrian king). This demonstrates irony: seeking help from nations results in oppression by nations. Human alliances apart from God produce bondage. Only Christ gathers His people for blessing, not burden (Matthew 23:37, John 11:52).

Historical Context

Israel's foreign policy involved paying tribute to secure alliances or avoid attack: Menahem paid Assyria (2 Kings 15:19-20), Hoshea sent tribute to Assyria then secretly to Egypt (2 Kings 17:3-4). Each 'hiring' drained resources and demonstrated lack of trust in God. The 'king of princes' (Assyrian emperor, claiming sovereignty over lesser kings) imposed heavy burdens on vassals. The phrase 'sorrow a little' may indicate brief period before complete destruction, or ironic understatement. Historically, Assyrian vassalage was crushing: heavy tribute, deportations, political control. This demonstrates that seeking security in human powers rather than God ensures oppression.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does 'hiring among the nations' (seeking human alliances/solutions) rather than trusting God produce burdensome consequences?
2. What contemporary Christian equivalents exist to seeking security in worldly powers rather than divine protection?

Interlinear Text

וְאֶת

H1571

H3588

Yea though they have hired

H8566

וְתַנְבֵּה

H1471

בְּגָויִם

עַמְּךָ

H6258

אֶת־בָּצָר

now will I gather

H6908

לִנְךָ

them and they shall sorrow

H2490

מְעַט

a little

H4592

מִמְשָׁךְ

for the burden

H4853

מֶלֶךְ

of the king

H4428

שָׁרִים:

of princes

H8269

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 16:37 (Parallel theme): Behold, therefore I will gather all thy lovers, with whom thou hast taken pleasure, and all them that thou hast loved, with all them that thou hast hated; I will even gather them round about against thee, and will discover thy nakedness unto them, that they may see all thy nakedness.

Isaiah 10:8 (Kingdom): For he saith, Are not my princes altogether kings?

Ezekiel 26:7 (Kingdom): For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will bring upon Tyrus Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, a king of kings, from the north, with horses, and with chariots, and with horsemen, and companies, and much people.

Hosea 10:10 (Parallel theme): It is in my desire that I should chastise them; and the people shall be gathered against them, when they shall bind themselves in their two furrows.

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